

**REMARKS**

Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims 44, 46-59, and 65-69 is respectfully requested. Applicants appreciate and acknowledge the allowance of claims 60-64 and the recognition of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 45-51, 54, 55, 58, and 66-68. Claims 45 and 66 have been cancelled without prejudice. Additionally, Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Claims 44, 52-53, 56-57, 59, 65, and 69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 103(a) applying U.S. Pat. No. 6,382,845 (the '845 patent) without a teaching reference. For patents to be applicable under sec. 103(a), the combination of teachings must, *inter alia*, expressly or inherently, teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. Additionally, motivation and suggestion to combine the teachings must be present.

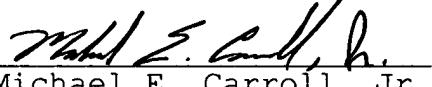
It is respectfully submitted that the '845 patent does not teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest each and every feature of amended independent claims 44 and 65. Additionally, the amendment of claims 44 and 65 is not an admission that the art of record teaches, discloses, or otherwise suggests the features of the claims. Withdrawal of the sec. 103(a) rejection of claims 44, 52-53, 56-57, 59, 65, and 69 is warranted and respectfully requested.

No fees are believed due in connection with this Reply. If any fees are due in connection with this Reply, please charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 19-2167.

Allowance of all pending claims is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is welcomed to telephone the undersigned to discuss the merits of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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